

BEIJING TODAY

今日北京

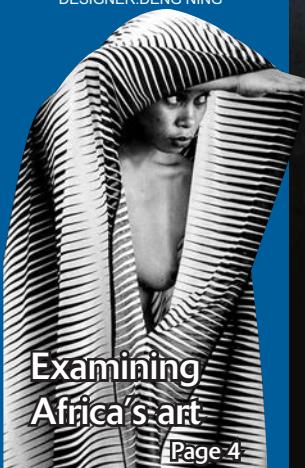
PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

May 11 2012-May 17 2012

NO. 570 CN11-0120

HTTP://WWW.BEIJINGTODAY.COM.CN

CHIEF EDITOR:
YU SHANSHAN
NEWS EDITOR:
HUANG DAOHEN
DESIGNER:DENG NING



Examining
Africa's art

Page 4

北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

China to build
the Titanic 2?
Page 2

The beauty of
change
Page 5

A name card
for the capital
Pages 8-9

It's Mom's day!

If you're a mother who has to hear "I love you," China may not be your cup of tea.

But even if many Chinese children struggle with such overt expressions of love, moms don't go unappreciated.

Read more on Page 3



News for
Kids!
Page 11

Under the auspices of the office of Beijing Municipal Government ■ Run by Beijing Youth Daily ■ President: Zhang Yanping ■ Editor in Chief: Zhang Yabin ■ Director: Jian Rong ■ Price: 2 yuan per issue
■ 26 yuan for 3 months ■ Address: No. 23, Building A, Baijiazhuan Dongli, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China ■ Zip Code: 100026 ■ Telephone/Fax: (010) 65902525 ■ E-mail: bjtoday@ynet.com
■ Advertisement: (010) 65902534 ■ Hotline for subscription: (010) 67756666 (Chinese), (010) 65902626 (English) ■ Overseas Code Number: D1545 ■ 邮发代号: 1-364 ■ Overseas Distribution Agent: China International Book Trading Corporation

Critics say market could sink Titanic 2



James Cameron's 3D release of *Titanic* is renewing interest in the ill-fated ship.

IC Photo

By Zhao Hongyi

Although a Nanjing shipyard has guaranteed that its new *Titanic* won't sink, critics say a ship has to do more than float to make money in the shrinking market for luxury ocean liners.

The construction deal, hammered out by Australian mining magnate Clive Palmer and China Changjiang Shipping Group on April 30, will see the ship rebuilt at the company's Jinling Shipyard.

Dubbed *Titanic 2*, it will use modern technology that Changjiang Shipping said will prevent a repeat of the original vessel's fate.

Jinling Shipyard confirmed signing an agreement with Palmer on April 20.

"We are capable of building such a replica, and technology has advanced considerably during the last 100 years," Li Wenbao, senior manager of the shipyard, told Xinhua News Agency.

"The interior decor will be modern and the ship will make use of the latest in engine and telecommunication technologies," he said.

Details about the budget, size, design and deadline have not been confirmed, but are being discussed in Nanjing, he said.

Both the shipyard and Palmer have said that while technical ability will not be an obstacle for the *Titanic 2*, the reputation of its predecessor will.

Construction is expected to begin next year, with its maiden voyage from London to New York planned for 2016.

Jinling Shipyard is one of the few large-scale ship constructors in China. Its main business is building ocean liners, and it has four wharves that can berth large vessels, in addition to its many docks.

The shipyard has many sophisticated design and construction skills too. Its has completed ships for export to more than 20 countries.

In 2004, it constructed the super large Ro-Ro Ship "Bordeaux" to carry and transport parts and components for the Airbus 380 and an ice-breaking Ro-Ro ship weighing more than 10,000 tons for use in Sweden and Finland.

Clive Palmer is a Queensland billionaire with strong links to China. He owns a luxury resort on Australia's Sunshine Coast and plans to build a fleet of luxury liners, Australian media reported.

Palmer built a fortune on real estate on Australia's Gold Coast before becoming a coal magnate. He was Australia's fifth-richest person last year with more than AU \$5 billion (32 billion yuan), according to Australian media reports.

The original *Titanic* – the largest luxury cruise ship of its type – sank 100 years ago after it struck an iceberg on the night of April 15, 1912 during its maiden voyage from Southampton to New York.

More than 1,500 people perished.

The disaster has captured the imagination of generations, and the "unsinkable" ship has enjoyed high popularity and recognition.

But in spite of the original's pop-

ularity, Chinese readers have been unsympathetic to Palmer's plans.

The week the story broke, there were almost 25 million news reports, blog posts and discussions about the message.

The dead weight tonnage of the original *Titanic* was 46,328 tons, but most modern cruise ship, such as the Queen Mary 2, Freedom of the Seas, the Diamond Princess and the Costa Fortune, are above 100,000 tons.

"I'm afraid it will be another waste of money to own and operate," Banjunshan, a netizen, wrote on his blog.

But some readers took pride in knowing the second *Titanic* would be made in China.

"It's useless to worry about the efficiency of owning and operating *Titanic 2*," said Wang Jun, a professor of social science at Peking University.

"Capitalists are efficient business owners, not like our government's wasteful bureaucracy. They probably calculated the potential market and possible revenue already," he said. "Our only role is to win the contract, build the vessel and gain experience."

Palmer's assets totaled \$795 million this year, according to report by eworldship.com, one of the leading information hubs of the shipbuilding industry.

He spent his childhood in China, meeting Chairman Mao Zedong and Aisin-Gioro Puyi, the last emperor. Most of his business is in some way related to China.

Tobacco program bails on bid for science award

A tobacco research program has been left out of the race for a top science award following its controversial study of manufacturing low-tar, less-harmful cigarettes.

China Tobacco, which is affiliated with the State Tobacco Monopoly, applied to have its research into less harmful cigarettes included on a list of initiatives up for the 2012 National Award for Science and Technology.

The application was open to appeals from March 23 to May 2.

During the past 40 days, health officials, scientists, non-governmental organizations, the general public and the World Health Organization's representative in China have voiced strong opposition to the application.

Health experts said the company's research – which focuses on "Chinese-style" cigarettes – misleads the public by claiming that the addition of Chinese herbs into cigarettes reduces their harm.

At least 33 letters of objection have been sent to the Ministry of Science and Technology, the organizer of the science reward.

The State Tobacco Monopoly withdrew its application under the pressure.

Officials at the State Tobacco Monopoly have declined to comment, but a statement issued by the Ministry of Science and Technology on Friday said that the research met with opposition and the situation was "very complicated."

Meanwhile, officials with the Ministry of Health have told reporters that "the current result was the fruit of the joint efforts of everybody."

China has more than 300 million smokers, 1.2 million of whom die from tobacco-related diseases every year, and another 740 million who are exposed to second-hand smoke, health experts say.

They said that China faces a particularly tough battle to fight smoking, as China Tobacco provides lucrative tax contributions and holds the status of a government agency.

Tobacco research projects have been honored seven times in the annual National Award for Science and Technology over the past decade, *Beijing News* reported.

"We oppose considering research into so-called 'low-harm' cigarettes for the national science award," she said.

Yang Gonghuan, former deputy director of the tobacco control office at the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, said the Ministry of Science and Technology should carefully supervise applications for the science award.

"The ministry should stipulate clearly that such a research program (as the 'Chinese-style' cigarettes) should not be eligible for the science award," she said.

(Xinhua)

'I love you, mom'

Kids shy away from showing love to parents



Young students kneel before their mothers to wash their feet in Jiangxi Province for Mother's Day. IC Photo

By Huang Daohen

The approach of Mother's Day has reminded many of the debt they owe their parents. But while having great affection is one thing, saying it is another.

For a variety of reasons, most Chinese people still consider it awkward to tell their mom "I love you."

Chen Xiaoxiao was panicking.

For three days in a row, the 26-year-old office worker had been unable to order an arrangement of carnations for her mother in Jiangsu Province.

"It seems like all the carnations vanished last week," Chen said.

She finally turned to her friends for help, buying flowers through a local store at a much higher price.

Chen, however, said it was still worth the trouble. She knew her mother would be pleased with the gift, even though she criticized her for wasting money on flowers.

But although Chen has been sending flowers for four years, she has never said "I love you" to her mother.

"It just feels quite weird for me to say it to her in person," Chen said, adding that she prefers to express it in writing.

Chen was not the only shy daughter. A poll of 6,000 readers by Sina.com found that most people are too shy to tell their mothers how they feel.

Roughly 70 percent of those who participated said they would spend 500 yuan to prepare some gifts to mark the day, and more than half said they planned to call their moms because they would be too busy at work or be away from home.

Fewer than 20 percent said they would tell their moms "I love you."

"I do love my mom, but I think if I did say it out loud in person, it might confuse her," Chen said.

Tian Ming, a sociologist at Beijing Normal University, said it is understandable.

"Telling mom 'I love you' is a daily expression in the West, let alone on Mother's Day, but Chinese people are more quiet, serious and reserved," he said.

"It is part of our culture that people do not express their affections for relatives so directly," Tian said.

But people find other ways.

Xinhua reported that as many as 100 primary students in Dexing, Jiangxi Province gathered on the playground and washed their feet for their mothers to celebrate Mother's Day. The pupils also gave cards and cakes to their mothers.

Last year, more than a thousand primary school students in Guangdong Province knelt before their mothers and washed their feet.

Yet the expression of piety was not without controversy. Many suspected it was all for show.

"I think the important thing is that we have to let our mothers know we care about them," said Qiu Jun, a cultural counselor and mother of a four-year-old son. "We grown-ups are always busy with our careers and have little time for our parents, but we should take time to visit them and listen every now and then."

Qiu doesn't plan to spend the weekend at her mother's this year. Instead, she will take her mother and son to attend "Listen to Your Mom," a forum organized by a community website.

Qiu first found the website when her son had a fever. Despite being treated by a local hospital, the boy did not recover.

At that time, Qiu could not call her mother and found herself absent her parenting advice and support. She visited websites for help and eventually contacted a mother who told her online that it's normal for a child's fever to last for a week.

"If not for her advice, I would have given my son more medicine, and maybe caused some damage," she said.

Qiu began to study more about parenting and record her experience on a blog. "I realized that many young mothers face the same problems," she said.

That will be the topic of the forum on Sunday.

"We are not alone in the struggles of life as a woman, mother or daughter," Qiu said, adding that several single mothers are also planning to attend.

"I cannot imagine how much more difficult it is for them," she said.

Although parenting may be difficult, Qiu said she thinks it is the greatest thing in the world.

Sidelight

Flower delivery business booms

Moms are not the only ones who enjoy Mother's Day. For florists and flower store owners, the holiday brings a rare boom in business.

Owners have been busy this week filling flower orders from children of all ages. Carnations, a symbol of motherhood, are the most popular.

"There are so many customers that we had to stop taking orders for weekend delivery," said Li Danhai, who runs a 10-square-meter flower and gift shop in Sanlitun.

Li said the price of carnations doubled, exceeding the price of roses and lilies.

Mother's Day also drives the demand for gifts and travel services. Statistics from Taobao, the country's top online storefront, showed that the sales of mom-related products climbed 120 percent during the past week.

Gifts such as cosmetics, handbags and accessories were the bestsellers.

Downtown shopping malls attempted to pick up on the boom by offering discounts on related products and free carnations to customers who are mothers.

Travel agencies are also keen to get on the festival. Many launched special Mother's-Day-themed tours. The Beijing Youth Travel Agency prepared a series of tours to Thailand, South Korea and Japan with discounts and special gifts for mothers.

"It is a chance for me to spend more time with my mom and let us share the experiences of being mothers," said Zhao Xiaoyun, a 31-year-old mother of a three-year-old son.



Black and Red, Beyond Color



By Han Manman

The Cameroon-born Dutch photographer Angele Etoundi Essamba is currently holding a retrospective exhibition titled *Black and Red, Beyond Color* in Beijing, which she hopes will bring viewers closer to Africa's arts and its social problems.

Comprising 140 color and black and white photographs, poems and videos, the exhibition is Essamba's largest anthology, spanning 27 years.

Essamba expresses a unique vision of women through her works, especially in her sensitive treatment of African and black women: their strength, vitality, dignity, grace and sensuality.

"I picture the female body in a symbolic and aesthetic way," she said. "For me, it is a body that speaks of struggles, wounds, fragility and strength; a body that is truly lived by life, and depicts its mysteries."

Essamba said she tries to show a "contemporary Africa."

"My goal is not only to break with stereotypes on Africa and the black woman, such as oppression, submission, exoticism and poverty, but also to exceed them," she said. "It's necessary that the Africans show the view they carry on their own continent. Also, we need images in which we can identify with and relate to."

According to the Dutch photography website GKf, identity is an important theme in Essamba's photography, and is related to her sense of cultural identity. It is "an important conceptual node that closely links her to the contemporary African social situation and political environment," according to GKf.

Essamba grew up in a multicultural background. She was born in Douala, Cameroon. As a young girl, she moved to France, and later trained at the Nederlandse Fotovakschool in the Netherlands. She gained international recognition with exhibitions all over the world. Her photographs were first displayed in 1985 at Maison Descartes in Amsterdam.

"Her early experience in Paris and Amsterdam, along with her tireless efforts to present Africa through new artistic methods, came to form a wonderful balance of reality and cultural identity," according to GKf. "Whether in terms of subjective awareness or the objective awareness of her subjects, Essamba's work contains multiple layers of aesthetic meaning."

"My own multicultural background has had a deep influence on my work," Essamba said. "I focused on the creation of black women portraits that question the concepts of identity, alterity and cultural duality, in order to promote mutual respect, understanding and tolerance."

"It shows pride, strength and the consciousness of African women and the relationship between tradition and modernity."

The exhibition will be held at the Beijing Li-Space Culture and Art Center until May 24 as part of the Caochangdi PhotoSpring Festival.

Photos provided by
Li-Space Culture
and Art Center

French photos show the eternal beauty of Beijing

By Wu Hao

Before Pierre-Jean de San Bartolome came to China as a cultural attaché at the French embassy in 2003, he had acted in, written and directed plays, designed costumes and stage sets, and planned cultural festivals. He studied law, literature and cinema in college, which nurtured his aesthetic tastes.

Even while working at the embassy, he yearned to return to his creative side. When he left the office at the end of 2008, he got into photography, capturing his surroundings and the humble residents in them.

"I'm not trying to preserve the past; I photograph to capture poetic changes, tracking what time is leaving," he said. "I do not intend to be critical... I just want to express the perpetuity of emotions."



San Bartolome

Portrait of changing Beijing

San Bartolome, 62, is fascinated with city constructions and the ordinary people living there.

In 2008, with the Beijing Olympics in the world's focus, San Bartolome was struck by something small yet poignant while stuck in traffic: moon doors. He saw a gray wall pieced by round gateways, built for the small shops along the road.

He made friends with the traders living behind the moon gates, making them characters in his photos.

"I'm deeply grateful to them: they remind me that power and property are just vanities," San Bartolome said.

After the moon doors, he found something else worth photographing – the billiard table. He took so many photos that his upcoming exhibition in June takes billiard table as its theme.

He noticed that young Chinese pool players always wore a vest – it struck him as odd and interesting.

He spent two months looking for ideal shooting places and models, three weeks shooting and another three months editing. All this was for 14 pictures.

In his search, San Bartolome found that most pool players were young and full of vitality. That impressed him, considering he was expecting to find grizzled, cynical middle-aged men.

In his new works, he added elements of Peking Opera. As an artist, San Bartolome said he has a natural love for Peking Opera. He said in a fast-changing world, Peking Opera remains an unchanging cultural relic – it should be destined to disappear, but it's surviving.

"It's just like those billiard tables that survived, not merely thanks to professional actors and billiards champions, but more due to the enthusiasm of the young generation and numerous



San Bartolome describes his photos as poetic yet realistic.

amateur groups in Beijing."

In this way, the traditional and modern meet in his photos.

Swift changes

At one point, San Bartolome wanted to reshoot a photo but found that a large part of his original setting – a village – was in the process of being torn down. He watched several workers break the walls.

"That was horrible – you feel sick, as if someone is tearing you down with it," San Bartolome said.

San Bartolome's father, an architect, taught him how to build walls when he was young. And that memory, according to San Bartolome, would accompany him all his life.

"Every time I see a house being torn down, I feel pained," he said.

He had to seek help from his friends at the Ministry of Culture. The next day, no walls were left.

"After that, I went back several times to take photos, until nothing was left but a desolate land," he said. "It looked like the scenes of Hiroshima after

the atom bomb."

Despite the changed landscape, the pictures came out quite well.

"His angle was quite different from what you see from Chinese photographers. While they tend to convey the discontent of these changes by showing the dark side, he presents us with something beautiful," a Chinese photographer said about San Bartolome's photos.

"Soon after, there will be another picture: a new wall, a new roof, windows built by others," San Bartolome said. "Then, my heart will be filled with the joy of seeing cranes' spiraling arms and the vitality of scaffolds. The promise of construction overcomes everything."

San Bartolome said he would describe his photography as poetic and realistic, by considering light and shadow and every detail.

"They seem far away from news reports, reality and daily life," he said. "However, to me, the pictures exemplify the real life experience of ordinary

people in Chinese society."

Apart from the changes, in San Bartolome's eyes, humanity and beauty are eternal.

Zhu Jiong, an associate professor at the Photographic Institute of Beijing Film Academy, said, "San Bartolome's photography is neither news photography, nor is it documentary. He has approached his artwork as a theatrical director, painstakingly selecting his scenarios, mobilizing the characters of these authentic scenes and redecorating the night scene with lights to create a stage with each moon door, so that each individual, in the flesh and blood, can dramatically present their version of China's modernization process."

Fates led him here

San Bartolome first became fascinated with Asian culture when he went to South Korea in 1990 to work.

It was the beginning of a long stay in the Far East. He became sentimentally attached to Beijing from the start, because the city reminded him of a childhood

place – a big construction site following World War II dubbed "Rebuilding."

"I want to photograph Chinese walking on their way: their thoughts and acts, their pains and joys, their shortcomings and merits," he said.

In 2004, with the help of the Chinese People's Organization for the Friendship with Other Peoples, San Bartolome traveled to almost every corner of China to pick traditional art to perform in France. He picked Li Yuan Opera and Nan Yin, forms that are rare and previous, obscure to even Chinese.

He created the Croisements Festival for the French Embassy in 2006, which offers cultural exchange events across cities all over China.

Apart from his many titles – director, writer, diplomat, photographer – San Bartolome prefers to see himself as "a great traveler, a citizen of the world – curious about all the cultures, aware of their complementary natures and of the beneficial influence they provide to one's own self."

"He is an artist," Zhu said.

Students from international schools compete with robots

By Liu Xiaochen

One of the most prestigious robotics competitions in the world, the First Lego League (FLL), was held at The British School of Beijing Shunyi Campus last Saturday.

Students built and programmed "NXT Mindstorm" robots to complete a number of time-based challenges, including using their robots to pick up cars, balls and food and take them to certain spots.

There were three rounds of challenges, plus presentations.

Seven teams participated in FFL. A team from Tianjin called Bionic Robotics won both the challenges and the presentation, which was on how to make food safer.

FFL started in the US 13 years ago, aimed at promoting interest in science and technology and encouraging critical thinking and problem solving.

The FFL came to China two years ago, when it was held in Shanghai. This year's competition was the first time a presentation phase was included.

Students set up their robots and began practicing their presentations in the morning. Everything was finished by 1 pm.

The topic of this year's FLL was "food safety." Competitors needed to do research and prepare all materials before the competition.

"How do we get food and how do we make it safer?" asked Nathaniel Brown, competition organizer.

Brown said he wants to give children the chance to challenge and train each other.

"I think it went really well," he said. "I was very impressed by the Tianjin school. I think they deserved what they got."



Students design robots to complete a number of time-based challenges.

Photos by Liu Xiaochen



Event

NGO & Charity Networking Day

Each year, The Bookworm hosts the NGO & Charity Networking Day in order to help organizations share awareness and connect with Beijing's NGO and charity community. Drop by to find out more about some of the great organizations working in these sectors and ways you can get involved.

Where: Courtyard 4, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Saturday, May 19, 10 am – noon

Tel: 6586 9507

Cost: Free

A tool for social and emotional closure

Join Dr. Reed Rhodes of Beijing City International School for a highly interactive workshop exploring a multi-sensory tool that can assist anyone in achieving social and emotional closure prior to a transition. Called RAFT, its versatility means that it can be used not only to support Third Culture Kids who make unexpected moves, but also regular transitions like the end of a school year.

Its systematic use by savvy parents and teachers means that children will learn an essential life skill that will serve them well in our highly mobile society. As seating is limited, please register in advance.

Where: The Familiar Center, Chaowai SOHO

When: May 16th, 10 am – noon

Tel: 5869 2904

Cost: Free

Event Animal Adoption

Two shelters are offering more than 50 animals for adoption, along with pictures of many others. Some students from Beijing City International School will help at the event, so there will be English speakers.

While adoption is free, it is only available to people (preferably families) who are intending to stay in China for a while, or who will have the means to transport the pet back to their home country.

Where: Chaoyang Men Bainiaohui Flagship Store. Take Subway Line 2 to Chaoyangmen, exit at the northeast exit, then walk from Second Ring Road; it is at the end of this big block.

When: May 13, 2-6 pm

Tel: 13436321567

Cost: Free

(By Han Manman)

Abuse of antibiotics drops in Chinese hospitals

A national campaign against the abuse of antibiotics looks to be progressing with usage notably dropping, the Ministry of Health said on Tuesday.

An inspection of more than 430 major hospitals nationwide showed that the prescription of antibiotics accounted for 15 percent of

the total prescriptions in hospitals in 2011, down from 27.8 percent in 2006, said Wang Yu, a senior official with the ministry.

The country launched the campaign last April to curb the prevailing abuse of antibiotics, which is believed to increase bacterial resistance and have a negative impact

on people's health.

The inspection showed that the usage and frequency of the prescription of antibiotics dropped notably after the campaign, Wang said.

Antibiotics were applied in about 58 percent of surgeries involving open wounds in 2011, down from 99 percent in 2006, and were applied on

less than 30 percent of hospitalized patients, down from 51.5 percent, he said.

In addition, a new regulation on the medical application of antibiotics will take effect in August, which upgrades the management of the purchase and applications of antibiotics in hospitals.

(Agencies)

The Summer Palace calls for adoption of century-old trees

Established in 1750, the Summer Palace is known for its 1,600 ancient trees. Since this year, the palace is seeking people to adopt its 1,000 trees, 30,000 plants and 10 hectares of lawn. It costs 3,000 yuan per year to sponsor an ancient tree and 10 yuan to sponsor a square meter of lawn. Anyone interested can check its website, sumerpalace-china.com, or call 6286 5920.



Photo by Hu Jinxi

Opening of first pediatric hospital dedicated to traditional medicine



Gently massaging a child's spine is an effective method to prevent against common colds.

By Annie Wei

The first pediatric hospital of traditional medicine opened on Monday within Second Ring Road.

It aims to relieve the pressure at regular hospitals' pediatrics department while giving

parents an alternative option for treating their sick child.

The hospital provides services including acupuncture, fire cupping and massage. All equipment is tailored for children.

The hospital charges 50

yuan for registration, and treatment costs between 100 and 500 yuan each time, depending on doctor. The hospital does not accept social medical insurance but will soon accept private insurance companies.

CFP Photo

Beijing Huimin Zhongyi Ertong Hospital

Where: 4 Dongda Jie, Zhushikou, Dongcheng District

Open: 8 am – noon, 1-5 pm

Tel: 4006 868 861

Website: chtcm.com

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyi@ynet.com

Last week, I visited Beijing Farmer's Market for the first time. Although there were a lot of leafy greens and eggs, there didn't seem to be a lot of variety. I did not see tomatoes, peppers, beans or even cucumbers. Is it a good market?

The organic market promotes eating local and eating fresh – it's just not the right season for tomatoes and peppers. You can find these at other markets, but they are shipped from the south.

Do you know of any group that supports English-speaking pregnant women in town?

You can try La Leche League, which offers information for pregnant women and practical know-how advice. Please contact Beijing United Family Hospital (Tel: 8559 1237) for more details.

Do you know where I can buy unsweetened shredded coconut?

You can find it in April Gourmet or the Indian store behind Yashow in Sanlitun.

We are buying a second-hand apartment and wonder which bank is the most reliable to take out a loan. Any suggestions?

Each realtor has business with several banks. It's better to talk with your realtor, as they are the most experienced. As long as a bank approves your application of the loan, the procedure should be easy. If you are a foreigner, you might try foreign banks. But if your spouse is Chinese, local banks will work just fine most of the time.

I am subletting an apartment from a friend, but I need an official receipt to claim the rent allowance from my company. Where can I get this?

You need to ask the landlord to go to the local taxation bureau to make out invoices, copies of the house proprietary certificate, copy of an IC card and receipt for the rent and lease contract. You or your landlord will have to pay 5 percent tax.

(By Wei Ying)

Performance hopes Beijing's new name

Grand performance

With the aid of a 180-degree LED screen and a movable platform, performers wowed the audience by "landing" an Airbus380 on the stage.

The introductory video walked viewers through Beijing's history, from the time Homo erectus to the construction of the city's best-known symbols: the Forbidden City, the hutong, the Bird's Nest and the Water Cube.

From there, a cast of professional actors, retirees, students, model workers and expats re-enacted the city's last century as it transitioned from an imperial capital to an ordinary city and back to the capital after the revolution of 1949.

The performance started with the May Fourth Movement of 1919, as China, in spite of being among the victors, was further divided by imperial powers at the signing of the Treaty of Versailles.

Furious citizens and students took to the streets in the capital, protesting the weak republic run by Yuan Shikai. Less than 20 years later, the city was invaded by Japanese troops and the army of the Kuomintang was defeated by the Japanese.

Peasants, students and workers stood up, armed themselves and continued to fight the Japanese across the country.

Stability came only after the city was liberated in 1949. Since then, the city has been the capital of the People's Republic. The population has grown and life has improved.

Beijing experienced another leap at the dawn of this century at the 2008 Olympic Games. The municipal government committed itself to developing into a world-class city capable of rivaling the world's metropolises.

But Beijing's history begins long before the modern era.

The earliest human activity in what is Beijing can be traced back more than 200,000 years ago. Its recorded history as part of China spans 3,000 years, more than 800 of which it spent as the nation's capital.

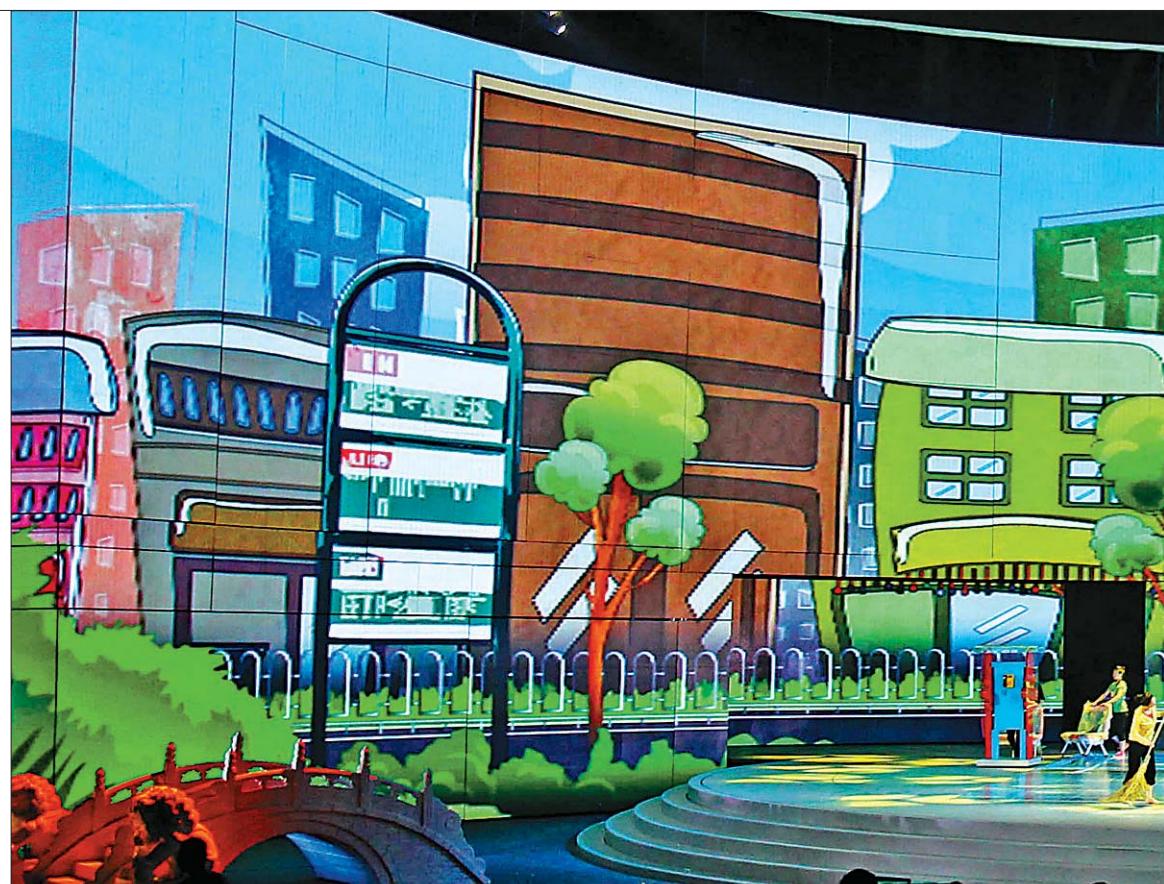
The director of the production used Peking Man, an early species of Homo erectus, as a witness to the city's change.

Peking Man was a predecessor to modern Homo sapiens that lived in the area that is today Beijing some 200,000 to 600,000 years ago. Its remains were discovered in Zhoukoudian, on the southwest side, in 1929.

Stars, migrants and technology

The show was intended to showcase the capital's long history and pioneering spirit.

"We expect Beijingers will be proud, that other Chinese people will admire the city and that for-



eigners will feel surprised after watching this performance," Chen Weiya, one of the directors, said.

Tian'anmen brought together many of the famous directors and performers who collaborated on the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, such as Mo Hualun, Tan Jing and Yao Hong.

"Most of the major roles were played by award-winning actors, singers and dancers," he said.

Many model workers from the capital were also invited to participate, including Li Suli, a hospitable bus conductor.

To increase their interaction with common people, the director also recruited migrant workers, trash collectors, middle school teachers and students to participate. The youngest participant was 4 and the eldest 83.

The show is the first to use new 3D imaging technology to display pictures and videos in the air without the use of a screen.

The huge LED screen capable of moving in any direction allowed performers to appear and withdraw without notice.

"The latest technologies give us much greater tools with which to make an impressive performance," Chen said.

Image of Beijing

A number of Chinese tourist cities, such as Guilin and Hangzhou, use performances, icons and logos.

"But there are too many of these. We needed to make something different to promote Beijing tourism," Chen said.

Chen settled on Tian'anmen.

As the entrance to the imperial palace and the place where Chairman Mao spoke to the troops, the masses and the Red Guards, Tian'anmen holds a special meaning for most Chinese people.

The performance is expected to be presented on May 16, and it will continue through next summer Chen said.

Where: Beijing Performance & Arts Center, 9 Tianchen Dong Lu, Chaoyang District (inside the Olympic Green, beside the Bird's Nest)

When: every evening from May 16

Price: 100-400 yuan

Tel: 8418 6188

to be card

By Zhao Hongyi

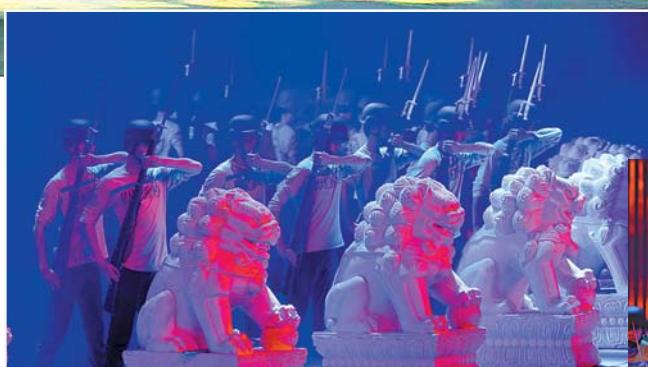
Dozens of performers met on May 6 for the first full performance of *Tian'anmen*, a new high-tech walk through the history of the capital at the Beijing Performance & Arts Center.

Director Chen Weiya's past credits include the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

Photo by Zhao Hongyi



Photos provided by BPAC

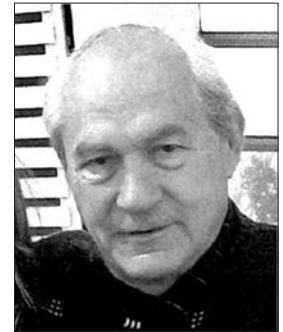


Performers play soldiers fighting the Japanese army.



Performers express a modern, stable life.

Avant-garde publisher recalls Paris, New York



Richard Seaver

By Charles Zhu

The memoir of Richard Seaver, who introduced the US to such avant-garde authors as Samuel Beckett, is being posthumously published to wide acclaim.

Among the writers and playwrights he helped make known to the English-speaking world are Jean Genet, Alain Robbe-Grillet, Eugène Ionesco and the pseudonymous author of the sado-masochistic fantasy *The Story of O*.



Richard Seaver (second from left) and other known countercultural literates in Chicago, 1968. From left: Allen Ginsberg, Jeanette Seaver, Jean Genet and William Burroughs.

CFP Photos

In reflection, Seaver says that the discovery of Beckett in Paris and the decision to set the Irish playwright and novelist before English-speaking readers was among his greatest achievements.

Seaver went to Paris on a Fulbright scholarship at Sorbonne in the early 1950s. His thesis in French was on James Joyce. While in Paris, he purchased Beckett's works in French directly from their publisher and was amazed by his early novel *Murphy*.

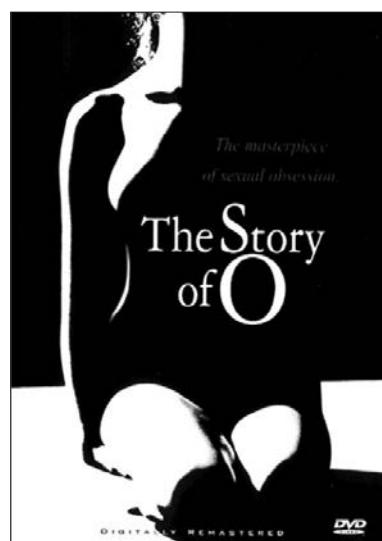
He told Alex Trocchi, Merlin's Scottish-Italian editor, and others how he found Beckett. It was by "chance," he said. "Chance and geography."

"I live on the Rue du Sabot, and to get to St. Germain, I usually go by the Rue Bernard Palissy, where there is a young French publishing house, Les Editions de Minuit. I saw two books displayed, *Molloy* and *Malone*, by one Samuel Beckett. The name rang a Joycean bell, but I couldn't figure what an Irishman was doing chez Minuit."

Assuming the books were translations, he asked the English-language booksellers "if they had the originals, and both said no, never heard of them."

"My curiosity piqued, I went into the Minuit offices and bought both books. Turned out they were in fact written in French. And what French, I might add. They knocked me out," he said.

In collaboration with a number of friends, Seaver was producing the English-language literary magazine *Merlin*. With great interest in the peculiar style of Beckett's prose — French lyrics set to an Irish tune — he tried to seek a con-



tribution from the Irish author.

"We had all but given up hope of ever hearing from Beckett when, one dark and stormy early evening in late November ... outlined in the light, was a tall gaunt figure in a raincoat, water streaming down from the brim of the nondescript hat jammed onto the top of his head," he writes. "You asked me for this," he said, thrusting [a] package into my hand."

The package contained *Watt*, Beckett's last full-length work in English. Parts of the work appeared in *Merlin*, and in 1953 the novel launched the magazine's series, *Collection Merlin*. Six titles were published that included English translations of Beckett's *Molloy* and *The Thief's Journal* by Jean Genet. *Collection Merlin*, with its sharp eye for literary talent, won a place in the literary history of the 20th century.

As Jeanette writes in her forward, "Discovering Beckett was for Dick an overwhelming event, a kind of intellectual explosion. It stopped him short. From then on... Dick felt unable to pursue his own writing. His muse turned silent."

In "The Tender Hour of Twilight," Seaver covers long café conversations and pillow-talk unearthed from 50 years of memory. He recalls a meeting with Jean-Paul Sartre. He stubbornly believes that Beckett remained indebted to him.

After his service in the Navy, Seaver returned to New York in 1958 and began a career at the firm of George Braziller.

The following year, Barney Rosset, the owner of a small Greenwich Village publishing firm named Grove Press, invited him for lunch and asked, "Why don't you join the excitement?"

Grove was planning to publish

D.H. Lawrence's banned 1928 novel, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, and Henry Miller's *Tropic of Cancer*. Then published were *Naked Lunch* by William Burroughs and John Rechy's novel *City of Night*.

"For three years between 1962 and 1964 we had been in a Sargasso Sea financially, with sales stagnant and profits, when they came, minimal," Seaver writes.

In 1962, Grove lost "roughly \$400,000 on sales of slightly over \$2 million," largely as a result of lawsuits. This was also due to Rosset's overreach and Byronic boldness. "From 20 or so employees half a dozen years before, our weekly payroll [in 1969] numbered close to 150, housed in our spanking new building on the corner of Bleecker and Houston streets."

When it was time for Seaver to leave Grove Press, he told Rosset, "You simply can't afford me," Seaver replied, at which Barney "got to his feet and, with all his 130 pounds, gave me a bear hug worthy of someone twice his size and weight. A hug as hearty as any I'd ever had."

He moved to Viking and eventually set up his own Arcade Press with his wife Jeanette. He ran it during the last 20 years before he died at 82 in 2009.

Critics call Seaver one of the great book publishers of his generation.



News for kids, by kids.

Corporated with
 中学时事报
 BEIJING CHILDREN'S WEEKLY
 北京少年报
 BEIJING CHILDREN'S WEEKLY

No one knows better than Chinese parents how the future depends on children: most spare no effort to be "wolf dads" and "tiger moms" to send their children down the path to success.

As part of its commitment to young readers, *Beijing Today*, together with *Middle School Times* and *Beijing Children's Weekly*, is beginning a weekly education report to share the views and events happening in the lives of Chinese youth.

What are they saying?



North Korea on the move

The world has been awfully busy lately! There have been earthquakes, military coups, shootings and a satellite launch that cost billions but fizzled out like a cheap firecracker.

But there has been one even more notable event: the ascension of Kim Jong-un as the Supreme leader of North Korea at the fifth conference

of the 12th Supreme People's Assembly on April 13.

Kim's appointment came the same day the satellite launch failed, leaving many to wonder whether the disaster would affect his grip on power.

The failed satellite may be a blessing in disguise. Had it succeeded, the US, South Korea and Japan could have interpreted the launch as the

young leader's preparations for a missile attack. Furthermore, existing UN resolutions would have brought about harsh sanctions. And even a failed launch can provide Korean scientists with valuable learning experience.

The launch gave the world a chance to learn how Kim Jong-un works, and it's clear he works very unlike

his father.

First, he announced the satellite launch more than a month in advance. Second, he informed the International Maritime Organization of the satellite's planned trajectory. Third, he invited foreign experts and media to attend the launch and conduct interviews.

In the past, the launch of

both military and civilian satellites was a secretive affair. Kim Jong-un's choice to alert the world and invite foreign observers shows a new effort to cooperate with the international community.

For North Korea, this is progress.

— Zhang Sicong, student from Beijing No. 4 Middle School

When did murder become admirable?

A carjacking at the University of Southern California left two Chinese exchange students dead inside a double-parked BMW at 1 am on April 11.

Classmates held a memorial for the dead, and the school posted a reward of \$125,000 for the killer's arrest.

But back in China, students were less empathetic about the murders. Many Internet students cheered the carjackers for killing what they assumed to be wealthy heirs, who are often assumed to be cold and indifferent to others.

As a Chinese person, their response makes me ashamed.

It does not matter whether the victims were the children of tycoons. The tragedy left families broken and ended what could have been otherwise bril-

liant futures. Moreover, the victims were our compatriots who left the security of their family and connections to pursue their education abroad.

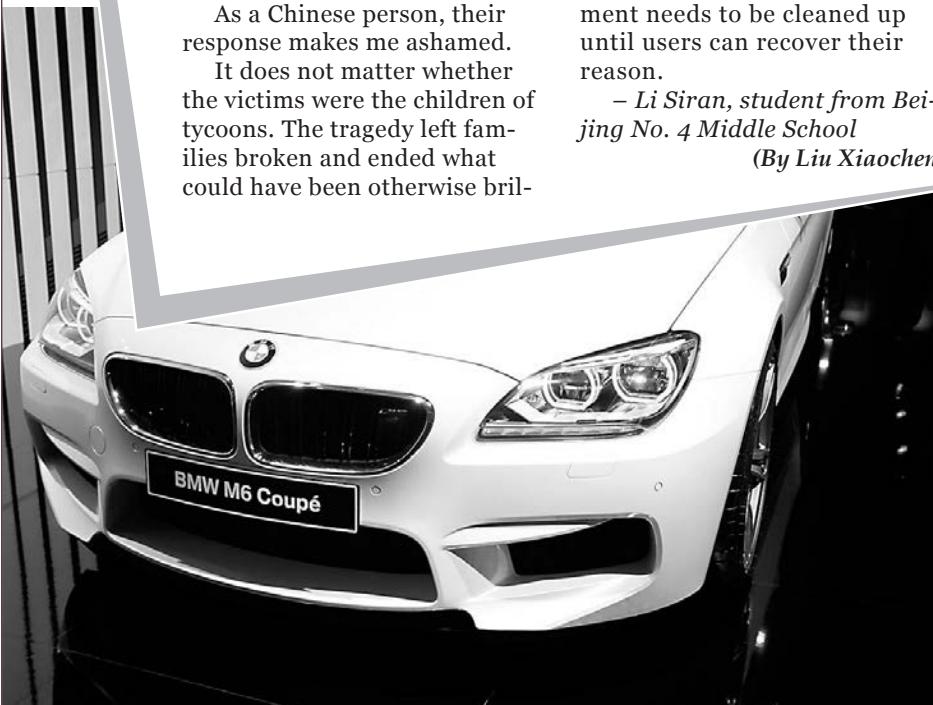
It's a strange culture we have when a double-homicide in a used BMW merits celebration.

This accident showed me just how twisted many people have become in their jealousy. People's hatred of rich heirs has reached a point where they ignore basic facts: all lives are worthy of respect, and an early death is nothing to celebrate.

I think the Internet environment needs to be cleaned up until users can recover their reason.

— Li Siran, student from Beijing No. 4 Middle School

(By Liu Xiaochchen)



What do they care?



Boy crisis or nonsense?

"Saving the boys" has been a big discussion topic in middle schools, where boys are being labeled inferior to girls both physically and emotionally. Many blame this on a lack of father figures and practices that muddle traditional gender roles. But the claims, usually exaggerated, could be a dark shield for a worse problem — continued discrimination against girls.

US entrance exams easier

Students who attended the recent ACT in Hubei Province said the exam was much easier than the Chinese college entrance exam, called the gaokao.

The ACT is a recognized college admissions test used in the US that tests students' knowledge of English, mathematics, reading comprehension and science. While Chinese students tend to be stumped by the reading

and writing sections, they usually score well on the math section.

Many choose to skip the Chinese and head abroad for their studies.

Fleeing London

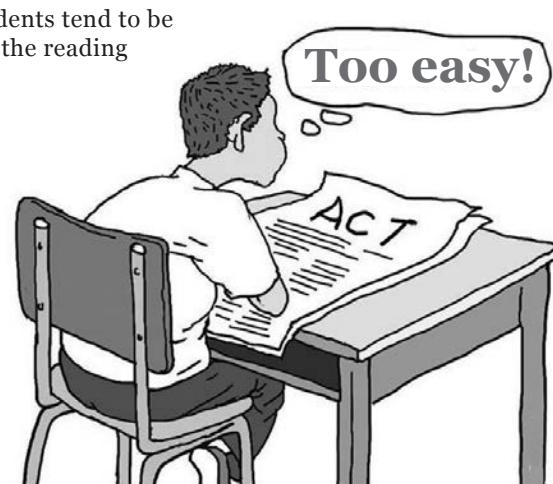
As tourists prepare to flood the UK capital for the Olympics, Londoners are planning to flee the city to avoid the crowds.

Local media reported that transportation will be the biggest challenge for the city, even though London has spent \$8.5 billion to withstand the rush of the games.

Londoners are being encouraged to stay at home or in the office during game time. However, there are some who would rather escape altogether.

"I think it's going to be quite inconvenient for a lot of Londoners. From what I hear, a lot of Londoners will actually leave the city," said Londoner Steve Janus.

Too easy!



Ideas for wedding parties

By Annie Wei

Summer is the best time for hosting a wedding party: people can travel light, enjoy the outdoors and dress up in more colors; even the lush trees and green lawns make for better photos.

Beijing Today recommends some basic items for hosting or joining a party like that.



Elisabeth Koch designs hair accessories and hats suitable for parties.



Guests wearing hats designed by Elisabeth Koch (left) at Jianyi Mansion's wedding show



Designer Lan Yu (right) and her wedding gown
CFP Photo

Venues

Apart from offering fine French and Chinese dining, Jianyi Mansion also has the largest lawn within the Fourth Ring Road. Since its opening two years ago, the mansion's wedding services have been fully booked every weekend. This year, it's offering more services, including a helicopter or carriage ride.

Jianyi Mansion

Where: Northwest corner of Honglingjing Qiao, Balizhuang, Chaoyang District
Tel: 5139 8739

Gowns

More brides prefer having their gowns designed and made by an independent designer instead of buying low-quality knock-offs in Wukesong.

Alex Wang and Lan Yu are among the most reputable local wedding gown designers.

Alex Wang's studio

It took Wang a long time to get to where he is now. After working for many apparel companies, Wang established Zero 9, a design studio, in 2004. Soon after, he began designing for actors and actresses.

Where: Nos. 71 and 73, Building 6, Area 22, 32 Baizhan Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 5826 3402

Just for Love

Lan Yu, 27, has become well known for designing celebrity dresses. Each of her one-piece designs is unique, with characteristics of traditional Suzhou embroidery and the use of crystals and laces.

Where: First floor of Shangri-la



Carriage service at Jianyi Mansion's wedding show



At Jianyi Mansion

Hotel, 29 Zizhuyuan Lu, Haidian District

Tel: 8882 6838

Accessories

Although women's hats aren't in vogue, American Elisabeth Koch has

made a name for herself in the capital's fashion circles as a rising hat designer. Her works are pretty and elegant, suitable for formal events and parties. Each costs between 1,500 and 3,000 yuan, and can be found at elisabethkoch.net.

The difference a glass can make



The new Chateau Baccarat collection



Chateau Baccarat's technical adviser, Bruno Quenioux

By Annie Wei

A wine tasting event in Beijing and Shanghai last month, hosted by the Chateau Baccarat collection, did more than introduce people to new wines: it made people reconsider how they're consuming them.

"At first, I didn't put much stock in the theory of wine glass having an impact on wines," said Li Demei, a local winemaker, oenophile and columnist. "But my opinion has completely changed."

Event organizers invited a group of wine experts and media to try several products. Each was poured into two types of glasses: a traditional crystal one and one from the Chateau Baccarat collection. Tasters said they could tell there were obvious differences.

Wines from the Chateau Baccarat collection tasted smoother and more intense. They also gave a more full-body flavor with less alcohol released.

We tried four bottles of wine, including Domaine Henry Pruhon and Fils St Aubin 2009; Tallot-Beaut Savigny Les Beaune 2009, Burgundy; Chateau Helan Qingxue, Jiabeilan Reserve 2009, Ningxia; and Paul Jaboulet Crozes-Hermitage Domaine de Thalabert, 2007, Rhone Valley.

Li said the Chateau Baccarat wine glass collection could better enhance the wine's fruit flavor, especially for wines from Burgundy.

The new glasses' technical adviser is Bruno Quenioux. He was born in a wine-growing family and has been working in the wine industry for 25 years. He is also the driving force behind the recognition of organic and natural wines in fine-wine circles.

Quenioux said the new collection is designed according to a slender trapeze line with the intent of presenting the wine's complexity, subtlety and length. The glass can be appreciated by every-

one, not just wine experts.

Among the wines we tried was Jiabeilan from Ningxia, winner of a prestigious Decanter award last year. Although there were good and bad reviews, we highly recommend it for its unique Chinese characteristics: a flavor that has a touch of ripe dry black fruits from the northwest. The wine is available through the distributor The Wine Republic (www.thewinerepublic.com).

Xu Wei, a lecturer from WSET in Shanghai, said that the new Baccarat collection is more convenient for drinking. It includes one glass for red, one for white, one for champagne and one for water. Each glass costs around 1,000 yuan.

Chateau Baccarat

Where: L130 A, Guomao Shangcheng, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm
Tel: 6505 4989

Chocolate inspired by and catering to local taste

By Mou Ren

Although Godiva is one of the best known chocolate brands in the world, many Chinese find it too foreign – too sweet, in other words.

Godiva's chief chocolatier, American David Funaro, is convinced his brand belongs in China. As a result, he's created three kinds of truffles for Chinese consumers.

In the first, Funaro fuses chili paste with peanut butter outside the chocolate. The second is a white chocolate with salty nuts, and the third is a Shanghai sugar cookie with a dark chocolate center, a little bittersweet.

Funaro said he did a lot of research and trials to make sure these chocolates would do well in the local market.

He chose chili, cookies and nuts as his special ingredients because of several trips to Shanghai supermarkets last year, when he paid close attention to the items in customers' shopping baskets.

Funaro said his creations are all related to lifestyles. He has traveled to 19 cities in 10 countries in the past year, and not all for fun and games – he's surveyed countless people on their chocolate taste.

"I went to the oldest markets and restaurants to get people to taste my food – I am trying to understand this old-world culture," Funaro said.

He said that a customer approached him, saying, "This spicy flavor reminds me of my grandma. I miss her." Another consumer told him: "My father used to

buy these nuts."

"What I like doing in chocolates is to create new memories, which are pulled out from the old memories, and try to tie them together," Funaro said.

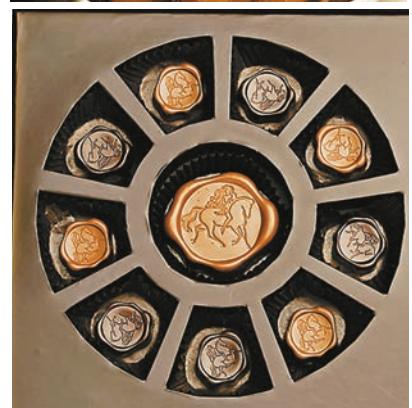
As a chocolatier, one of Funaro's main jobs is to taste a lot of different chocolates from coco beans around the world. Then he considers "marrying" one flavor to another.

To judge a chocolate's quality, Funaro said there are 4 Cs – crisp, creamy, chewy and crunchy.

Godiva

Where: B1, World Trade Center Shopping Mall, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang district

Open: 10 am – 10 pm
Tel: 6505 2288



Godiva chocolate CFP Photos

Exhibition

**Art Summer in Wangjing SOHO**

Art Summer is organized by Wangjing SOHO, Time Art Museum and Alliance Francaise. Stop by to see installations by seven contemporary artists and a new and exciting piece by a performance artist.

Where: Wangjing Street, Wangjing SOHO (near Benz Tower), Chaoyang District

When: May 12
Admission: Free
Tel: 5878 8888

**'Touch Porce-lain' at Beijing Time Art Museum**

This exhibition is focused on classical Chinese blue-on-white porcelain, as well as glaze works that attempt to modernize the folk art and bring Chinese culture into contemporary work. Viewers can experience the calm and elegance of this traditional art.

Where: F35-37 D Block, CITC Plaza, 6 Jianwai Street, Chaoyang District

When: May 13 to 26
Admission: Free
Tel: 8567 9817

Hotel

Off-peak enjoyment

Enjoy great deals at Heavenly SPA on weekdays. Booking one of four treatments to enjoy complimentary use of all spa and workout facilities, including the swimming pool, gym, sauna, steam room and jacuzzi.

Where: Heavenly Spa, Westin Beijing Chaoyang, 7 Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Monday to Friday, 10 am – 2 pm
Cost: Head in the clouds 385 yuan for 30 minutes; Oriental reflexology 485 yuan for 50 minutes; heavenly massage 565 yuan for 50 minutes; recovery facial 735 yuan for 50 minutes.

Tel: 5922 8531



Tour

10 days to Inner Mongolia by sidecar

Want to ride a sidecar on the enormous Hulun Buir Grasslands? A trip to Manzhouli is your best bet.

Manzhouli is a small town in the northeast of Inner Mongolia, and is bounded by both Russia and Mongolia to the north. Well known as "the Window of East Asia," Manzhouli is the largest foreign trade port on China's land border.

Tourists come to view the famous Hulun

Buir Grasslands, which are filled with beautiful wildflowers during the spring months, and Hulun Lake, China's fifth largest freshwater resource.

We conduct year tours of Inner Mongolia with a support team that includes a mechanic, a car full of food and tents. Sign up to explore Inner Mongolia with other sidecar riders! Space is available for between 10 and 16 bikers.

When: Call before June 15
Tel: 13651331816
Email: changjiangsidecar@yahoo.com



Dining

Grand Millennium's Sichuan dishes a memorable experience

CBD International Cuisine has invited special guest chefs from its sister hotel, the Millennium Chengdu.

Enjoy authentic spicy delicacies from Sichuan in the heart of the capital at CBD's dinner buffet, available through May 20.

Where: Grand Millennium Beijing, 7 Dongsanhan Zhong Lu

When: Until May 20
Cost: 288 yuan (15 percent gratuity)
Tel: 8587 6888 ext. 3012 for reservations or more information

**Seasonal specialties at Yao Chi Cantonese**

Celebrate the season at Yao Chi with special vegetable and fruit dishes.

Recharge your body with invigorating steamed crab in black bean sauce, stir-fried beef tenderloin with bell peppers, braised conch with kale in abalone sauce and braised mixed meat and mushrooms with fresh mixed vegetables.

If you prefer sweet to savory, indulge in fried sesame prawns in sweet lemon sauce, crispy chicken with honeydew melon, fried rice in a pineapple cup and stir-fried prawns and scallops with mixed fresh fruit.

This special fruit and vegetable promotion is available throughout May and June.

Where: Yao Chi Cantonese restaurant, Grand Millennium Beijing, 7 Dongsanhan Zhong Lu

When: Until June 30
Tel: 8587 6888 ext. 3013



15

Next week

Fri, May 11

**Recital****Marie-Christine Barrault**

Marie-Christine Barrault is a famous French artist who combines songs with recital in movies. Frédéric Chiu, who has toured Europe and the US in the past, will be her accompaniment for this performance.

Where: Wanda Square Building C, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 7 pm

Admission: Free via invitation

Tel: 6553 2627

**Nightlife****Bob Marley Tribute**

Popular reggae bands in Beijing are paying tribute to Bob Marley tonight. Performers include Long Shen Dao, Mitabe, Ultimate Production and Meiamenti Sound.

Where: Yugong Yishan, No. 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm

Admission: 50-80 yuan

Tel: 6404 2711

Sun, May 13

**Concert****Nathaniel Gao**

The Nathaniel Gao band is regarded as one of the most professional jazz bands around. Gao, who went to New York to study, is performing for the first time since his return.

Where: Jianghu Bar, 7 Dong Mianhua Hutong, Jiaodaokou Nan Jie, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm

Admission: 40-50 yuan

Tel: 6401 5269

**Lecture****Our golden time: Wenren Yueyue and Liang Wenda**

Wenren Yueyue and Liang Wenda will talk about Wenren's book *A Gold Digging Story*. The writer was born in Hangzhou, grew up in the US and now lives in Hong Kong. Liang is a famous host and commentator on Phoenix TV. He is also a newspaper and magazine columnist for publications in mainland of China, Hong Kong and Malaysia.

Where: Peking University, 5 Yiheyuan Lu, Haidian District

When: 2:30 am

Admission: Free

Tel: 6275 2114

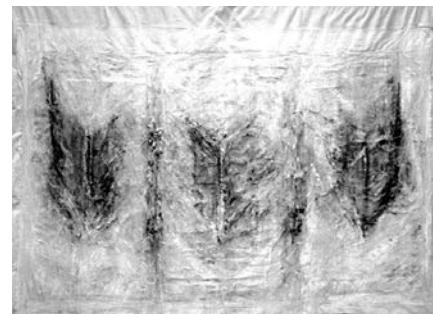
Sat, May 12

**Dance****Vertical**

This performance gathers excellent dancers from Europe, Asia and the Middle East. Creative stage lighting and a vivid soundtrack make it unique. Aram Khan said this dance explores different cultures.

Where: The National Grand Theatre, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: Until May 13, 7:30 pm
Admission: 120-480 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

**Exhibition****By Nadine Kohn Fiszel**

French artist Nadine Kohn Fiszel explores thickness and density, vacuums and gaps, via ink, cloth, trace and Japanese paper. She was inspired by traditional Chinese calligraphy.

Where: EMG, D1-1 Creative Base, Xi Magezhuang Dong Cun, Dougezhuang Xiang, Chaoyang District

When: Until May 28, 8 am - 10 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6553 2627

**Exhibition****Design of Cadillac**

Curator Xiao Xiaolan presents how humanistic thought has changed in the past 110 years. The exhibition includes classic works from masters such as Andy Warhol, Stuart Davis and David LaChapelle. Designs from contemporary Chinese artists such as Zhao Wuji, Wang Guangyi, Fang Lijun, Zhang Xiaogang and Yue Minjun will also be shown.

Where: East Square of China National Convention Center, 7 Tianchen Dong Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until May 15, 10 am - 8pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 400 820 1902

Tue, May 15

Nightlife**Zooming Night**

Xiaoping has live music every Tuesday. This week, Paper Tiger Jamboree and rock bands Mr. Ray and Space Bitch will perform.

Where: Xiaoping, southwest of Dianmen Lukou, Dianmen Xi Dajie, Xicheng District

When: 9 pm

Admission: 10-30 yuan Tel: 6265 3711

Nightlife**American folk music**

Guitarist Liu Yusi of the band The Randy Abel Stable, who has toured live houses in Australia, will perform folk songs spanning three centuries of American music.

Where: Jianghu Bar, 7 Dong Mianhua Hutong, Jiaodaokou Nan Jie, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6401 5269

Wed, May 16

**Movie****Sunshine Cleaning**

The China Film Archive is screening *Sunshine Cleaning*, directed by Christine Jeffs, who was nominated for a Young Artist Award by the Casting Society of America.

Where: China Film Archive, 3 Wenhuiyuan Lu, Haidian District

When: 7 pm

Admission: 20 yuan

Tel: 6225 4422

Thu, May 17



(By Liu Xiaochchen)

BEIJING TODAY

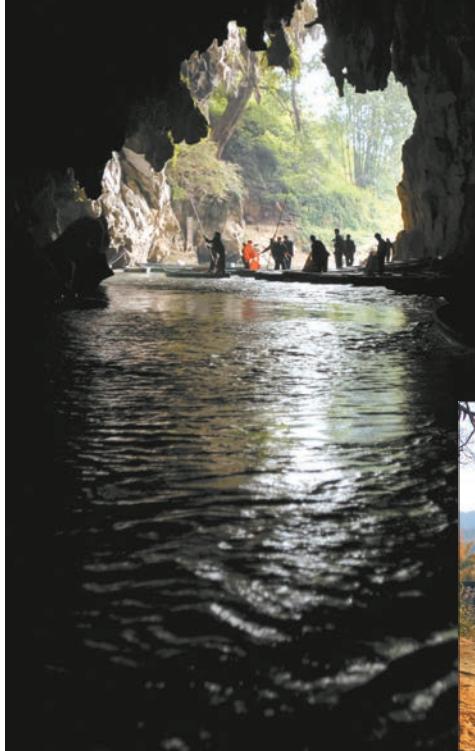
Editor: Zhao Hongyi Designer: Yang Gen

The lost Shangri-la

By Huang Daohen

Shangri-la was a hidden paradise in James Hilton's novel *Lost Horizon*, but the real Shangri-la, in Yunnan Province, is anything but a utopia, thanks to overwhelming commercialization and flocks of tourists.

But if Shangri-la has lost its charm, nearby villages have yet to suffer the same fate. Without any five-star hotels, Internet access, electricity or modern conveniences, Bamei Village in southwest Yunnan may be the region's true – and final – Shangri-la, a secluded place where people live a clean and pastoral life.



Rowing in the dark through the cave waterway.



Native oxen are an important asset for the villagers.

Surrounded by mountains 18 miles north of Guangnan County, the village is essentially off the map. The only way to get into the hidden valley is to pass through a big cave waterway. Local Zhuang minority residents provide ferry service.

After 20 minutes of drifting, visitors will finally arrive at an agricultural wonderland, where there's clean air, green fields, bamboo groves and running water.

There are no roads, let alone cars. A footpath along the riverside leads visitors into the village. Locals say that even now, the river is the only access in and out.

The seclusion that has kept out modern world has also kept unwanted intruders at bay. Few tourists were here on an early April afternoon. The village usually attracts locals from Kunming seeking solitude and quiet.

Today the village is home to about 120 families, with a population of 600, most of whom are Zhuang.

With no electricity, vil-

agers and those who drop by lead a primitive life. They have to fish, hunt and farm, and live in traditional Zhuang wooden homes (some have built newer brick abodes).

When night falls, the villagers light their oil lamps and start bonfires. They dance and sing folk songs. Children run about and play their own games. For those who live in the turmoil of the outside world, one cannot help appreciating this separate peace.

Getting there

Take a four-hour bus from Kunming to Guangnan County, then the No. 3 bus to the entrance of Bamei Village.

Tickets

Admission is 40 yuan, which includes three boat rides into, around and out of the village.

Accommodation

Local guesthouses are available, or you can stay with one of the local families. Expect the conditions to be basic, with limited food options and no electricity.



Crossing the cave waterway is the only way to get to the village.



Shabby bamboo bridge to the village



A 100-year-old banyan tree in Bamei Village.

Photos provided to Beijing Today